

during the Southeastern Asian conflict. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation. And I want to especially commend and thank Representative BRUCE VENTO for his leadership and hard work on behalf of the Hmong and this legislation. I'm sure all my colleagues join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and a happy retirement.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill because the Hmong have stood by the U.S. at a crucial time in our history and now is the time to repay and honor the loyalty of Hmong veterans. The Hmong were a pre-literate society. They had no written language in use when the United States recruited them during the Vietnam War. The best symbol of why H.R. 5234 is necessary is the Hmong "story cloth," the Pandau cloth, that is their embroidered cloth record of important historical events and oral traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I approve of the new correction language which allows the spouses of the Hmong veterans who made it to the United States, but for whatever reason their husbands did not and they remained in Laos. This additional correction which is being initiated by the House will waive the language and civics requirements for these widows who have been granted legal permanent residency.

I join Chairman SMITH in commending the Lao Veterans of America for its tireless efforts for the Hmong. I too also commend our colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. VENTO, for his sponsorship of this legislation.

The Hmong were critical to the American war strategy in S.E. Asia—especially the U.S. air strategy. Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for the expedited naturalization of Hmong veterans of the U.S. Secret Army currently residing in the United States (as legal aliens) who served with U.S. clandestine and special forces during the Vietnam War by allowing them to take the citizenship test with a translator since the Hmong are a tribal people with no written language, thus relying solely on the "story cloths." The bill is capped at 45,000, in terms of the total of number of Hmong veterans, their widows and orphans who currently reside in the United States who would fall under this legislation. This correction legislation will not count against the cap. This cap is supported by the Hmong veterans in the United States and is considered to be a generous cap. I support this legislation to provide relief to the Hmong heroes.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5234, a measure that would extend the applicability of the Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act (PL 106-207) to widows of the veterans covered by that law.

As I've stated in the past, the Lao-Hmong people stood honorably by the United States at a critical time in our nation's history. Approximately 60,000 Lao-Hmong know the Minnesota region as their new home and I have long championed efforts to help ease their adjustment into our society. Many of the older Lao-Hmong patriots who made it to the U.S. are separated from their family members and have had a difficult time adjusting to many aspects of life and culture in the U.S., including passing aspects of the required citizenship test.

I appreciate the efforts of those in my district and nationwide to clarify an unintended oversight of the Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act. Clearly, this Congress did not intend to exclude the widows of those veterans who sacrificed for our country. It is my hope that this technical bill will clear the confusion, and

that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) will work to ensure full and proper implementation of the language and spirit of this law.

I was greatly heartened when my colleagues joined me earlier this year to stand with the Lao-Hmong in their struggle to become U.S. citizens and to live a good life in the United States. We were right to recognize their dedication and service. Now we must guarantee that no one is inadvertently left out. I strongly urge your support of this bill.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5234.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

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□ 1458

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 2 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.

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#### SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 590) providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 2392.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 590

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 2392, with the amendment of the Senate thereto, and to have concurred in the amendment of the Senate with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.

#### TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Findings.

Sec. 103. Extension of SBIR program.

Sec. 104. Annual report.

Sec. 105. Third phase assistance.

Sec. 106. Report on programs for annual performance plan.

Sec. 107. Output and outcome data.

Sec. 108. National Research Council reports.

Sec. 109. Federal agency expenditures for the SBIR program.

Sec. 110. Policy directive modifications.

Sec. 111. Federal and State technology partnership program.

Sec. 112. Mentoring networks.

Sec. 113. Simplified reporting requirements.

Sec. 114. Rural outreach program extension.

#### TITLE II—GENERAL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Levels of participation.

Sec. 203. Loan amounts.

Sec. 204. Interest on defaulted loans.

Sec. 205. Prepayment of loans.

Sec. 206. Guarantee fees.

Sec. 207. Lease terms.

#### TITLE III—CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PROGRAM

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Women-owned businesses.

Sec. 303. Maximum debenture size.

Sec. 304. Fees.

Sec. 305. Premier certified lenders program.

Sec. 306. Sale of certain defaulted loans.

Sec. 307. Loan liquidation.

#### TITLE IV—CORRECTIONS TO THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Investment in small business investment companies.

Sec. 404. Subsidy fees.

Sec. 405. Distributions.

Sec. 406. Conforming amendment.

#### TITLE V—REAUTHORIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Sec. 501. Short title.

Sec. 502. Reauthorization of small business programs.

Sec. 503. Additional reauthorizations.

#### TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 601. Loan application processing.

Sec. 602. Application of ownership requirements.

Sec. 603. Eligibility for HUBZone program.

Sec. 604. Subcontracting preference for veterans.

Sec. 605. Small business development center program funding.

Sec. 606. Surety bonds.

#### TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

##### SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the "Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act of 2000".

##### SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the small business innovation research program established under the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982, and reauthorized by the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992 (in this Act referred to as the "SBIR program") is highly successful in involving small businesses in federally funded research and development;

(2) the SBIR program made the cost-effective and unique research and development capabilities possessed by the small businesses of the Nation available to Federal agencies and departments;

(3) the innovative goods and services developed by small businesses that participated in the SBIR program have produced innovations of critical importance in a wide variety of high-technology fields, including biology, medicine, education, and defense;

(4) the SBIR program is a catalyst in the promotion of research and development, the commercialization of innovative technology, the development of new products and services, and the continued excellence of this Nation's high-technology industries; and

(5) the continuation of the SBIR program will provide expanded opportunities for one